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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 FDRE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

/055 W
---------- 069384
R 100811Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9343
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2423

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KS, VS
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF ROK NATIONALS IN VIETNAM

1. ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KIM CHONG TAE TOLD DCM APRIL 9 THAT ROKG IS CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE THREAT TO LIVES AND PROPERTY OF APPROXIMATELY 700 - 1000 KOREAN NATIONALS STILL IN VIETNAM. HE SAID ROK AMBASSADOR SAIGON HAD BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE OWN JUDGMENT AND HAD BEEN QUIETLY ATTEMPTING PERSUADE DEPENDANTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL TO LEAVE BY COMMERCIAL CARRIER. MOST FAMILIES HAD EITHER LEFT OR WERE PLANNING TO LEAVE SHORTLY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL KOREANS EMPLOYED IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WOULD REMAIN AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. HE ASKED WHETHER U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO INCLUDE ROK PERSONNEL IN ITS EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF GVN RESISTANCE OCCUR.

2. DCM REPLIED THAT HE CERTAIN U.S. AUTHORITIES SAIGON WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO HELP FRIENDLY THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS IN EVENT REAL EMERGENCY, BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE HANDS FULL WITH MANY AMERICANS, US-ASSOCIATED VIETNAMESE, AND OTHER FOREIGNERS.
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DCM SUGGESTED ROK EMBASSY SAIGON REMAIN IN CLOSE

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CONTACT WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS ON ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPING
SITUATION AND THAT ROK SHOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN PLANS FOR EMERGENCY
EVACUATION, USING KAL AIRCRAFT IF NECESSARY.

3. KIM SAID ROK WAS ALREADY THINKING ALONG THESE
LINES, BUT WAS CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY SUDDEN
DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET AIRCRAFT
TO VIETNAM IN TIME OR TO PROTECT SUCH AIRCRAFT WHILE
ON GROUND. DCM AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT ROK EMBASSY SAIGON
EXPLORE WITH US EMBASSY SAIGON WHAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE
TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR EVACUATION AIRCRAFT IN EVENT REAL
EMERGENCY.

4. IS THERE ANYTHING FURTHER WE IN SEOUL CAN OR
SHOULD TELL ROKG ABOUT PLANNING TOWARD EMERGENCY
EVACUATION OR ABILITY OF US TO BE OF ASSISTANCE?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL02423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750124-1089
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750462/aaaacfew.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF ROK NATIONALS IN VIETNAM
TAGS: MASS, KS, VS, (KIM CHONG TAE)
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006